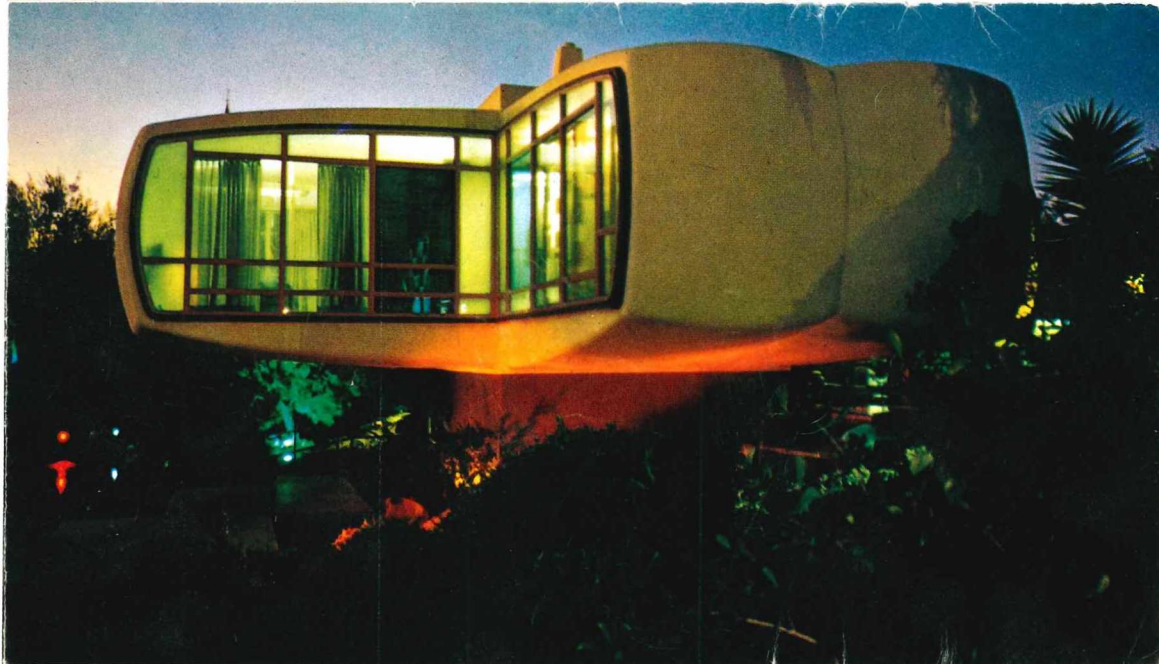

about Monsanto

The Monsanto Home of the Future is part of Monsanto's comprehensive program to broaden and facilitate the general use of chemicals, plastics, and fibers. The plastics house is an experimental and educational project. Monsanto neither manufactures nor markets the plastic house, nor is it commercially available at this time from other sources.

Monsanto Company is a diversified chemical manufacturing firm headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. The nation's third largest chemical producer, it employs over 45,000 people, has plants or sales representatives in over 50 countries throughout the world, and annual sales in excess of one billion dollars. The company has over 83,000 shareowners and its common stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

While at Disneyland, you are invited to visit the fascinating Monsanto Exhibit, located just south of the Monsanto Home of the Future. It is the first exhibit building to the right of the main entrance to Tomorrowland.

Monsanto®

Monsanto Home of the Future — its sweeping white wings reflected in the quiet pool at its base — appears to really belong in its hillside setting here in Tomorrowland in Disneyland. But this unique structure is not simply the creation of an imaginative designer projecting a far-out idea for purposes of a futuristic exhibit; rather it is the outgrowth of years of serious scientific research in new methods of building.

The architects and engineers who created the now world-famous Monsanto Home of the Future conceived its design as suited equally to the rocky shores of New England, the rolling plains of the Midwest, the rural wooded South, or the majestic desert of the great Southwest.

Monsanto Home of the Future had its origin more than ten years ago when Monsanto Company instituted a research program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study the potential uses of plastics in construction. This was in 1953. Two years later, a study entitled "Plastics in Housing" emerged from this Monsanto-sponsored investigation. It was a fascinating document — so provocative, in fact, that it was determined that only a full-scale plastics exhibit house could adequately demonstrate the findings of the Monsanto MIT research team.

In designing the house the architects sought to develop a plan which would be logical from a standpoint of everyday living and which at the same time would be free from the preconceived notions of a house built with conventional materials. Made of a few large parts rather than many small ones, the design takes advantage of the almost unlimited formability and fabricability of plastics. The house is formed of large curved sections, molded of plastic reinforced with glass and cantilevered from a central concrete core. The entire ceiling, wall and floor of each of the four wings is comprised of four plastics sections fitted together.

The cross-shaped design permits use of a small compact foundation concentrated under the central core of the house with the four wings cantilevered from it. This simplifies the foundation and makes the house adaptable to a wide variety of sites. The cruciform design also provides in a small floor area maximum privacy and quiet for members of the family. The graceful curves of the molded sections result in a structure that is pleasing to the eye and that also has strength, spaciousness and flexibility.

Despite the graceful, almost fragile appearance of the suspended wings, the house is extremely sturdy, with each cantilevered module able to support over 13 tons. More than 15 million visitors have toured the house since its opening to the public in June, 1957, and structurally it has remained sound. Engineers who have made periodic tests have rated the structural performance of the house as "outstanding."

Because plastics are truly man-made materials, they can, by molecular rearrangement, pigmentation or combination with other materials assume virtually any kind of properties required. Some of the significant properties of plastics which make them especially attractive for structural applications are:

- Lightness of weight, with a high strength to weight ratio
- Resistance to corrosion and wear
- Controllable thermal and electrical resistance
- Easy formability
- Adaptability to production line or factory assembly methods
- Complete color penetration
- Light-controlling properties

Monsanto®

In addition to its dramatic departure from architectural tradition, the Monsanto Home of the Future introduces a completely different flowing feeling in interior design. Conventional square, sharply angled lines have been replaced by soft, gently curving surfaces. Each room embodies bold, creative concepts in the handling of curved wall and floor areas, and bright new ideas in the design and shape of furniture. Wall-hung sofas and storage units, for example, are contoured to the curved walls to conserve space.

Handsome functional design has been combined with traditional beauty and elegance. Frequent renovation keeps the house looking fresh and new, and provides a showcase for the latest in man-made textiles and plastic materials. The living areas blend with effortless ease. The house throughout provides evidence that airy, uncluttered spaces are possible without loss of warmth and charm. Most important, gracious living and convenience are merged as never before.

The versatility and beauty of man-made fibers is demonstrated throughout the Monsanto Home of the Future. Chemstrand Acrilan® and nylon is used in luxurious, but highly practical, rugs and carpeting. Acrilan also is used in the colorful and durable upholstery stretch fabrics, and is introduced for the first time in a deep fur-like pile. Lovely, soft, sheer casement fabrics are in combinations of acetate, rayon, and nylon. Reliable, washable vinyl — improved in texture and pliability — is seen in other upholstered pieces. Comfortable urethane foam provides cloud-like cushioning for sofas, chairs, and beds.

The wonderful abuse-defying features of plastics are seen on every hand in the Monsanto Home of the Future. The bright new General Electric kitchen, for example, is surfaced entirely in Textolite and the floor is covered in Armstrong's handsome vinyl. Melamine laminates on counter and cabinet surfaces and decorative vinyl wallpaper have wash-down, wipe-off qualities to delight the homemaker. Colorful plastic louvered screens, folding styrene room dividers, and gold-laced laminated safety glass are decorative as well as functional. Also in the outdoor living area Monsanto plastics and fibers are colorful and weather resistant.

Bearing out the promise of this unique experimental home, the nation has been building more and more with plastics. Today almost 25% of all plastics produced in the U.S. — the latest available figure a staggering 4 million tons annually — go into construction, and this total increases each year. Monsanto is dedicated to a continuing plastics-in-building research program to help improve the understanding and acceptance of new construction materials, designs, and techniques.